

RAPPER NOTORIOUS B.I.G. SLAIN IN LOS ANGELES

By Paula M. Story
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Notorious B.I.G. made his name as a gangsta rapper barking rhymes about his real-life past dealing crack on the tough streets of New York.

On Sunday, the rapper also known as Biggie Smalls became the second major rap star to die in a drive-by shooting in the last six months. Tupac Shakur was killed in Las Vegas last fall.

The 24-year-old rap star, whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was killed outside a party while sitting in his parked GMC Suburban, which was punctured by at least five bullets in the gang-style attack just after midnight Saturday.

Wallace was rushed in the same vehicle to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead, police said. No immediate arrests were made.

He was attending a party at the Peterson Automotive Museum in celebration of the 11th annual Soul Train Music Awards staged on Friday, according to Kevin Kim, who witnessed the shooting with Wallace's estranged wife, Faith Evans.

"Someone just rolled by and started shooting," said Kim, who was standing in the museum parking lot with Evans, a singer who had a child with Wallace.

Dozens of concerned friends and fans gathered in the hospital parking lot early Sunday, where Wallace's bullet-riddled sport utility vehicle could be seen. They left only when officials confirmed Wallace's death.

Detectives cordoned off the Suburban in the hospital parking lot and studied at least five bullet holes in the passenger's side front door.

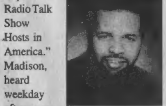
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MADISON NAMED ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP RADIO TALK SHOW HOSTS

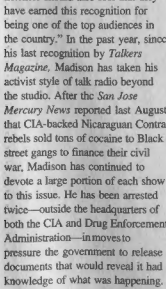
For the second year in a row, Joe Madison has been named by *Talkers Magazine* one of "The 100 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America."

Madison, heard weekdays afternoons on Washington, D.C.'s WRCR AM-980, said "To be singled out as one of the best—well everyone seems so good—really gives me great encouragement and the drive to be even better. The *Madison Show*'s listeners should also feel that they have earned this recognition for being one of the top audiences in the country."

In the past year, since his last recognition by *Talkers Magazine*, Madison has taken his activist style of talk radio beyond the studio. After the *San Jose Mercury News* reported last August that CIA-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels sold tons of cocaine to Black street gangs to finance their civil war, Madison has continued to devote a large portion of each show to this issue. He has been arrested twice—outside the headquarters of both the CIA and Drug Enforcement Administration—innocently pressure the government to release documents that would reveal it had knowledge of what was happening.



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Parents, teachers rally for school funding

Black Press

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

TRENTON—As the State Supreme Court heard opening arguments about the future of the 23 year-old school funding law, over 200 persons representing the 30 poorest districts in the state rallied outside to defend past court rulings for parity in that funding, something many believe Governor Christie Whitman is trying to reverse.

The 1990 decision of Abbott v. Burke ordered the state to create parity in the education and funding for the state's poorest districts with that of the more affluent ones. In 1994, the state set a deadline for implementation for December 31 of last year, a decision which led Governor Whitman, to propose a new funding program and core curriculum standards that has caused a firestorm of controversy with critics who say that her plan falls \$1.88 million short of equal, illustrating her refusal to abide by the court decision. Because of her championing of charter schools and support of the voucher system, many parents and teachers have voiced concerns over Whitman's true motives, and feel that her present plans are a continuation of attacks on the education system. A recent letter writing campaign, for example, has been launched by the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools. It called attention to plans the teachers there would like to see the state streamline or do away with the adult education programs in the state.



Sandy McGhee, President of the Newark NAACP addresses protesters outside the Richard J. Hughes building in Trenton as Patricia Bradford, NAACP Education Committee Chair, looks on.

Woodbridge Mayor, 19th District Senator, and possible opponent to Whitman in the gubernatorial election James Mc Greevey has received a number of these letters and said he will bring the matter to the attention of Education Secretary Leo Klagholz. The fate of Abbott v. Burke, however, given the current makeup of the court, is up in the air. Two justices were appointed by Gov. Tom Kean, three were holdovers from Gov. Brendan Byrne, and James Coleman is a Whitman appointee.

Attorneys David Sciarra of the Education Law Center, a non-profit

legal center and a longtime champion of equal funding, and Attorney General Peter Venerio argued their positions to six State Supreme Court Justices. Chief Justice Deborah Poritz expressed herself from this case because as an attorney general she helped draft the equal funding law which is now under attack.

Justice Gary Stein was wary of the Governor's plan. "I wonder how we'll get targeted by boycott loses black film Hotel targeted by boycott loses black film" Justice Stein was wary of the Governor's plan. "I wonder how we'll get targeted by boycott loses black film Hotel targeted by boycott loses black film" Justice Stein was wary of the Governor's plan. "I wonder how we'll get targeted by boycott loses black film Hotel targeted by boycott loses black film"

poorer districts," he said. Attorney General Venerio defended the Governor's plan, suggesting that the basis, not equality, should be the basis for school funding. "We have designed the invitation of this court to design an alternate approach," he said, "one that is based on student achievement, not blind fiscal equivalency unconnected to outcome."

Justice Stein left the Attorney General at a lost for words when he asked him, "Is parity wrong?" This brought a roar of applause from a

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Black man starring as Christ fuels Outrage

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

UNION CITY—According to the Bible, Jesus had hair of lamb's wool and bronze skin. Pictures of Christ, however, have historically depicted him as a white man with blue eyes. Even if that depiction was true, the Bible says to judge not according to the appearance. Apparently some people have overlooked that passage. For them, that blonde-haired, blue-eyed Christ is so important they will

boycott a play, even threaten actors with death if playing the role of the Messiah in a local production is a black man.

That is the controversy that has led to the Park Theater Performing Arts Center and their annual production of *Passion Play*. Picked to play the role of Jesus Christ on some of the scheduled dates is a black man, actor Deshaun Giles. The result has been a flood of calls expressing out rage, and "blatant racism." According to Theater co-director Daniel Quinn, one

called canceled his ticket, saying "Everyone knows Jesus was a white man."

There have been other cancellations as well. Many simply demanded that their tickets were changed to the day in which a white man, a fifteen-year veteran of the role Joe Bukovec, was starring. Some groups canceled because they were afraid the controversy would bring violence. Indeed, Giles has received death threats which he said the theater are placing themselves as taking seriously.

However, since the controversy

broke, there has been a huge groundswell of support. Because of the publicity it has generated, many have called for tickets to see Giles perform. Columns have been written in his defense. A representative from Vice President Al Gore's office called to say he was supporting him. Even shock-jock Howard Stern spent a morning defending him, saying he might even attend the play. In less than a week's time, it has been a whirlwind for the Brooklyn-reared

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Hotel targeted by boycott loses black film

By David Reed
Associated Press Writer

ROANOKE, VA (AP)—The African American Film Festival is moving from the Hotel Roanoke because its management company is targeted by an NAACP boycott. Two black churches in Roanoke have also canceled events scheduled at the Hotel Roanoke next month, according to Martin Jeffrey, president of the Roanoke branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "If we begin to flex our considerable economic muscle, things will move, things will change," Jeffrey said at a news conference Wednesday. The NAACP last week

called for a boycott of 10 national hotel chains because of their records of hiring and promoting blacks. The boycott resulted from a NAACP survey that examined 10 national lodging companies and then graded them. The questionnaire asked the companies for information such as the number of properties and rooms and the totals of black employees in executive, managerial and professional positions. Doubletree Hotels, which manages Hotel Roanoke, received an "F" because it did not respond to the questionnaire. Gary Walton, Hotel Roanoke's general manager, said he was surprised and disappointed by the festival board's decision to move the event from the hotel. "I think the whole reason for them choosing to go elsewhere is over miscommunication

and not hard facts," Walton said. The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center employs about 400 people. Of those, 39 percent are black, Walton said. Of 41 management staff, 15 percent are black, he said. "Our participation and involvement with minorities on our staff are very strong," Walton said. "When you pull out of an event like that, everyone's hurt, including minorities. You're taking business away from them." Jeffrey said Hotel Roanoke's record of hiring and promoting blacks could improve. Even if the hotel's record was satisfactory, he added, the NAACP boycott would be resumed until Doubletree answered the questionnaire. "We have to risk temporary discomfort for the larger issue, for the larger gain," Jeffrey said. "Progress has never been

attained without some level of agitation." Lynda Byrd-Handel, executive secretary of the NAACP state chapter, said she knew of no other events in Virginia that had been moved or canceled because of the boycott. A regional NAACP meeting in Newport News later this month will be held as scheduled at the Omni, another targeted hotel chain, because local managers encouraged the parent company to cooperate with the NAACP, she said. The eight other hotels on the boycott list are ITT Sheraton Court, Westin Hotels, Best Western International, Radisson Hospitality Worldwide, Renaissance Hotels and Resorts, Choice Hotels International, Holiday Inn Worldwide and Promus Hotel Court, which runs the Embassy Suites chain.

Year after Oscar protest, race still counts

By Lynn Elber
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One year ago, the Rev. Jesse Jackson used the Academy Awards as a vehicle to protest the film industry's exclusion of blacks and other minorities.

This year, he could recycle his script with virtually no rewrites. Although some Hollywood observers find cause for limited optimism, many agree that minorities continue to face enormous challenges in launching and sustaining an acting, writing or directing career.

And while few new films such as "Rosewood" and "Set It Off" honestly explore black life, they are rarities in an industry and a society—with a

new and troubling awareness of deep racial divisions.

"Change has been minimal at best. Very, very minimal," said Frank Berry, an NAACP official in Los Angeles. "There is so much room for improvement, for growth. We don't want to focus on Band-Aid cover-ups."

It is true that A-list actors such as Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington consistently find work. It's true the historical drama "Rosewood" got studio backing. And unconventional projects such as "Set It Off," a heist film with black women as the heroes, are nurtured by smaller companies.

All suggest change. But widespread, consequential progress is not supported by the statistics of groups such as the Writers Guild of America.

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Cuba Gooding

Denzel Washington

170 Years Long 170 Years Strong

The first ship carrying slaves sailed into the harbor at Jamestown, Virginia. A history written in the red ink of blood drawn from the very heart and soul of Africans who did nothing to deserve the devastation, whips wrought upon them. Some wounds never heal - the lingering effects remain with us today.

More than 200 years elapsed before the founding of the first Black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, in 1827. This began the emergence of Black newspapers dedicated to the resounding theme of liberty and their role as foot-soldiers of the pen in the war against slavery - the war that they simply refused to lose. The strong, righteous and honest words of the Black anti-slavery newspapers were an integral part in the creation of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in those states rebelling against the Union (1863). And more importantly, the ratification of the 13th Amendment which completely ended slavery in the United States (1865).

Extremities require extreme sacrifices. The anti-slavery Black newspapers and their heroic founders arose to the occasion by dictating their own destiny and helping to turn the dream of freedom into reality.

Black Anti-Slavery Newspapers

Freedom's Journal	Mar 30, 1827
Rights of All	Mar 18, 1828
The Weekly Advocate	Jan 1837
The Elevator	1842
The National Watchman	1842
The Clarion	1843
The People's Press	1843
The Mystery	1845
The Genius of Freedom	Jan 1, 1847
The Run's Horn	Nov 1, 1847
The North Star	1847
The Central African Magazine	1848
The Imperial Citizen	1848
The Christian Herald	1851
The Colored Man's Journal	1852
The Alienated American	1855
The Mirror of the Times	1855
The Herald of Freedom	July 23, 1859

Martin R. Delaney

In 1843, Martin Robison Delaney, one of the first Black Americans to graduate from Harvard, founded one of the earliest successful Black weeklies in Pittsburgh, *The Mystery*. He personally sustained the paper for the first nine months; after which, it became a joint stock company comprised of six Black men, and Delaney was retained as editor. Delaney was forced to leave his post because of his opposition to slavery as well as the treatment of free Blacks in Pittsburgh. A contemporary said of Delaney "The editorials elicited praise from even his enemies, and were frequently transferred to their columns."

Upon leaving *The Mystery*, he served as coeditor of the North Star with Frederick Douglass. This multitalented man had one more media training. His pen continued to wield influence throughout his life for many years with the publication of his book titled Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States. A fitting summary of what Delaney stood for throughout his life is the following from a letter he wrote to the Weekly Anglo-American in February, 1861: "The black man should act and do for himself, just as the white man under like circumstances would be justified doing - self reliance on the principles of Black Nationality." He died in 1885, at the age of 73 and has been credited as perhaps the earliest journalistic proponent of Black Nationalism.

Willis A. Hodges
By the mid 1840's the hottest public debate in New York concerned the state's Constitution clause on voting eligibility. While the law extended voting privileges to all White males upon reaching the age of 20, Black men were additionally required to own a minimum of \$250.00 real estate and their tax obligations satisfied. Black's protest

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Community Calendar

THROUGH MAR. 27

UPPER MONTCLAIR—An eight-week "English as Second Language" program is being offered at Montclair State University. Registration will be held on Jan. 13 and 15. For more information call (201) 655-4353.

THROUGH MAY 10

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the JCSC campus at 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3069.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

NEWARK—Free infection control course for EMTs and registered nurses. In the radiology conference room of Saint Michael's Medical Center. For more information, call 201-877-5094.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

NEW BRUNSWICK—Seminar on Navigating the "Medicare-Medicaid Maze" 1 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center. For more information, call 908-249-5000.

PLAINFIELD—Bus Trip to Atlantic City. Sponsored by Plainfield Senior Service Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

PLAINFIELD—African meal sponsored by the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

EAST ORANGE—Town Hall Meeting, "Police Brutality: A Community Epidemic," for International Day Against Police Brutality, at At. Paul's AME Church. For more information, call 201-926-5717.

PRINCETON—New Jersey School Boards Association's Annual Legis-

lative Conference, Princeton Marriott Hotel. For more information, call 609-278-5202.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

MORRISTOWN—1997 PTA Region II regional conference at the Morris Hotel. Theme, "Why and How We Should advocate for Children". For more information, call 908-266-5137.

PLAINFIELD—St. Patrick's Day Bingo Party at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

MARCH 17, 31

PLAINFIELD—News and support group, "The Round Table" at the Plainfield Senior Service Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

PLAINFIELD—Rescheduling of Regular Board Meeting of the Housing authority. At the Liberty Village Community Room. For more information, call 908-769-2232.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

PLAINFIELD—Blue Ribbon Panel on Black Infant mortality at the Plainfield High School Library. For more information, call 908-757-4130.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

WESTFIELD—Course, "What is it Educators in the Community Really Need to Know to Make a Difference?" at Rutgers Labor Center. For more information, call 908-233-8810.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

NEW BRUNSWICK—Green Party of New Jersey's Public Meeting at the Rutgers Labor Center. For more information call 908-247-4855.

SOUTH ORANGE—The New Jersey Historical Commission will hold a public hearing about its grants program, the Student Center of Seton Hall University. For more information, call 609-292-6062.

Black Nurses Day Celebration



NEW BRUNSWICK—In 1995 a coalition of the chapters in New Jersey of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc. was established. The chapters, comprising the coalition are 1. Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc. (1973) NJ's first Black Nurses Association, founded by Annette Hubbard; 2. Concerned Black Nurses of Central NJ (1985); 3. Southern NJ Black Nurses Association (1981); and 4. Northern NJ Black Nurses Association (1988). All individual chapters are governed by the by-laws of the National Black Nurses Association and have similar goals and objectives. However, the objectives are individualized depending on the area and needs.

In 1987 the National Black Nurses began celebrating National Black

Nurses Day in NJ. On Saturday Feb. 22, 1997, the celebration entitled "A National Black Nurses Day Celebration" was held at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick from 12:00 noon-4p.m. Festivities included music from a variety of groups, singing from an ensemble, networking with discussions of present Health Care problems and a light lunch. Other notables present were Jean Marshall MS RN FAAN, Assistant Commissioner of Health; Gloria Bosman MS RN, MFarland MD; Allison Boyd from Mercy Health Plan of NJ; and Senator Wyonna Lipman. Senator Lipman spoke briefly about bill in the Senate that affects Nursing Practice. Imani Kinshasa Board Member from National Black Nurses Association brought greetings.

Debra Wilson receives \$500.00 scholarship



UNION, N.J.—Debra Wilson, center, a Kean College of New Jersey student, accepts a \$500 Graduate Student Council Scholarship, from Adrienne Soricelli Vogel of Westfield, left, president of the Graduate Student Council. Also present at the awards ceremony was Kean President Ronald Appelman. Wilson, an Irvington resident and Newark native, was one of four Graduate Student Council Scholarship recipients.

Oscar protests

Continued from page 1

Blacks represent just 2.6 percent of the WGA membership, as they did a year ago. In the past five years, employment of black writers has increased just about 1 percent. Hispanics are about 1 percent of the WGA, with Asians about .5 percent.

By comparison, blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, while Hispanics represent about 10 percent and Asians about 3.5 percent.

"I don't know what you can point to say things are getting better," said Zara Buggs-Taylor, the guild's executive administrator for employment diversity.

Directors Guild of America statistics also show that minorities consistently are bypassed in hiring. According to the latest figures available, for 1995, less than 4 percent of directing work went to nonwhites, including blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

Among actors, recent years have brought some improvement. Between 1991 and 1995, employment of black actors in the Screen Actors Guild increased from 11 percent to 13 percent of the guild total.

For black actresses, there was a 3 percent increase, to 13 percent.

Among minorities overall, employment for actors rose from 15 percent in 1991 to 19 percent in 1995; for actresses, the figure went from 14 percent to 18 percent.

The number of minority Oscar nominees, which initially provoked Jackson's criticism, is little changed. Hollywood's famed golden symbol of excellence also is a dubious monument to the limited inroads made by nonwhites.

Cuba Gooding Jr. of "Jerry Maguire" and Marianne Jean-Baptiste of "Secrets & Lies," both blacks, are the only minority actors nominated this year. A handful of non-white nominees are found in categories such as best documentary short.

Oscar's record is defended by Academy Executive Director Bruce Davis, who said worst performances are recognized without regard to color.



James Woods playing Byron De La Beckwith in "Ghosts" "sense of organizational obligation," he said, "we would have started down a very unfortunate path."

But there are subtle signs of Hollywood's awkward handling of race. "Ghosts of Mississippi," about the murder of black civil rights activist Medgar Evers, received an Oscar nod for James Woods' portrayal of Evers' killer, Byron De La Beckwith.

A nomination for the actor playing Evers was unlikely. The character received bare minutes of screen time as Hollywood chose to tell the story mostly through the eyes of the white participants.

"As we said last year, the Oscars are the end of the process, and the paucity of nominations is a reflection of the need to have more people of color involved at the beginning, middle and final stages of film work," Jackson's Rainbow-PUSH Coalition said in a recent statement.

"We said a year ago and we say it today: Hollywood must do a better job in reflecting the cultural diversity of society."

The coalition, which staged Oscar protests in 20 cities last year, said the impact of its plea has yet to be seen. The group is weighing possible action during the upcoming March 24 ceremony.

For its part, the NAACP plans a comprehensive examination of the "deep-rooted problem" of discrimination, Berry said. That might result in a future plan of attack including "picking to lawsuits to anything in between," he said.

Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of

Medgar Evers and current chairwoman of the national board of the NAACP, contends her late husband would have recognized the importance of Hollywood activism.

"It's all a part of the struggle. I think Medgar would be one of the first to identify the lack of many positive role models and stories about African-Americans in the entertainment industry," she said.

Hopful observers see potential for change. They cite Jackson's protest and media scrutiny such as People magazine's "Hollywood Blackout" cover story last March as catalysts.

"We've gotten some movement," said the WGA's Buggs-Taylor. Studios are more willing to meet to discuss the issue, with some calling to suggest setting up programs to encourage minority and women writers.

The WGA and other guilds have taken heat for cooperating with Jackson's affirmative-action campaign, with some industry insiders calling it tactics counterproductive.

Buggs-Taylor sharply disagrees. "A lot of folks who didn't like Jesse's approach want to think that race has been killed... All I see (the studio) doing is responding. I think they don't want to have this light shone on them," she said.

But Hollywood's heightened sensitivity to race began well before Jackson's protest, says Jesse Rhines, an assistant professor of political economy at Rutgers University and author of "Black Film-White Money."

Black reaction to O.J. Simpson's 1995 murder acquittal "was such a huge shock to white people," Rhines said. "They realized there's something so fundamentally different, not just in terms of skin color, but in the cultures, the perceptions of the world."

Rhines says he feels an unprecedented optimism that in this post-Simpson world Hollywood is finally ready for the black perspective. He points to director John Singleton's "Rosewood" as one proof.

"This is an African-American view of the way blacks have been treated historically," he said.

Others share his belief that the times are slowly changing, whether Hollywood is ready or not. Independent and small-studio films, which dominated the best-picture Oscar category this year, are offering black filmmakers an alternative.

Theodore Witcher, writer-director of New Line Cinema's upcoming black romance "Love Jones"—voted audience favorite at this year's Sundance Film Festival—is among those seizing the opportunity.

"I don't think we could have gotten the movie made anywhere else," Witcher said. Companies are realizing that niche pictures, q made at a reasonable price for under \$10 million (or "love jones"), can be profitable.

Others are taking even more indirect routes to break down Hollywood's barriers.

Last March, actress Sherry Lee Ralph was a veritable poster child for Hollywood's exclusion of blacks.

Prominently featured in the People magazine article, Ralph recounted her difficulties in finding movie work after a dazzling, Tony Award-winning Broadway turn in 1982's "Dreamgirls."

Flash forward to the present: Ralph is writing, directing, producing and co-starring in the movie "Secrets and Lies." All I see (the studio) doing is responding. I think they don't want to have this light shone on them," she said.

"I called up Alfre Woodard. I called up Robin Givens. I called up Victoria Rowell. I said, 'Read this script. If you like it, call me back.' Next thing I knew we were shooting it," Ralph said, using studio space borrowed from her UPN sitcom, "Mo'Nsta."

"Sometimes you can't wait for somebody to give you permission," she adds. "Sometimes you have to take the permission and know, 'Hey, I can go there.'"

TRAILERS: Samuel L. Jackson will be host and Jodie Foster and O'Neal Davis will be honorary co-chairs at the 12th Annual Independent Spirit Awards. The ceremony honoring independent films will be held in a tent on the beach in Santa Monica on March 24.

For more information on the ceremony than the Academy Awards held two days later. The Spirit Awards will be carried live on cable's Independent Film Channel, with portions shown on the Bravo channel on Oscar night March 24.

Your Weekly Horoscope

BY MISS ANNA

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Let the lessons of your past experiences guide you to any practical applications of your ideas for the future. It's time to review your job, relationships and financial commitments, to see how they match up with your future life goals. Make plans to change whatever isn't working.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

You both look and feel good; your high energy and upbeat attitude is catching on with others. Take advantage of your appeal to make gains in your personal and professional life. It's a great time to improve relationships.

TAURUS: (April 21-May 21)

Make it a point of accomplishing those things that have been on your to-do list. There will be great personal power for you. A certain amount of stress will no doubt accompany your busy schedule; lashing out at family members will get you nowhere.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

Romance is in the air, and that warm glow from you and your lover will get you through any unpleasant situations in the workplace. Get chores and errands out of the way, creating extra quality time to spend with family and friends.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

You might fall in love, so take extra care with who you shower your affections on. It's time to consult a financial planner on any long-term investments you're been considering. Your intuition about money is right on target. Avoid criticism.

LEO: (July 24-August 23)

This entire month will be quite busy for you, both at home and at work. You are getting closer and closer to personal and career goals, so remember those who have helped you achieve what you want. Be supportive of family members, especially children.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

Help out wherever you can this week, but make sure to avoid any manipulators, all these efforts should go to a worthwhile cause. There may be an extra cash flow just in time for weekend fun you have planned. Enjoy any break from your usual routine and have fun.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

You are ready to conquer all obstacles in your way, just make sure not to hurt anyone. You're likely to find kindred spirits to further career and social plans. Major home repairs may be very necessary. It isn't such a bad idea to spend some time alone.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 22)

This week will both begin and end on a high note. You are in tune with your sweetest and everything seems to be running smoothly. You can move closer to your goals, with a possible new business partnership in the offing. Sign that new contract.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 21)

You may need to get away from your hectic routine and be alone with your thoughts. It's a great time to travel. Be confident of successes in any business dealings. Avoid unpleasant financial surprises by going over bank statements for any discrepancies.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

A friend challenges you to break out of your shell and promote yourself for advancement. You've nothing to lose, and will be happier in the long run. Time spent with someone close can make your day. The world is filled with dreamers and doers, be a doer.

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

Very prominent people will want your opinion, so be very careful how you word any responses. It is hard to avoid confrontation with those around you, so it's better to remain silent than drawn into unnecessary arguments. Someone close may turn on you.

PISCES: (February 20-March 20)

Career advancement is effortless, so pursue your cherished goals. Co-workers will welcome your ideas. Keep your cool in family situations which may be getting out of hand. There may be a difference of opinion, causing distance between you and someone close to you. Be fair.

Who are the 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

May 1, 1997

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CHANEYFIELD CALLS FOR ZERO-BASED ANALYSIS OF CITY BUDGET

At-Large Council Member urges end to "Sacred Cows"

NEWARK—Council Member-at-Large Gayle Chaneyfield will inform Mayor Sharpe James that the City Council intends to require a zero-based analysis for the entire municipal budget, starting with the 1997 budget. In the zero-based budgeting process, every proposed expenditure must be justified every year, instead of assuming that it is necessary.

"There can be no 'sacred cows' in the city's budget," Chaneyfield said. "Everything must be examined anew to make sure it is integral to the function of government. The Council will assert its obligation and responsibility to control the budget. We can not allow outside forces to manipulate spending. We will expect a full rationale for every expenditure in writing and in advance of our budget hearings. No expenditure will escape close and demanding scrutiny."

The City Council has already announced that it will reduce its own budget for travel, meals and other such expenses by 50% in the forthcoming budget. The Council also has committed to forcing "substantial" reductions in the Mayor's budget proposals, and to reducing the budgets of the City Council and the City Clerk by the same percentage imposed on the administration.

"The Council fully intends to fulfill its role as the fiscal watchdog of the people by, first, setting an example by reducing its own budget and, second, demanding justification even for what used to be considered the 'untouchable' programs."

Chaneyfield said that she doesn't expect the mayor to be at odds with zero-based analysis. "We are all committed to fiscal reform. Now we have to be equally committed to working together," she explained.

STUDY FINDS EDUCATIONAL DISPARITY BETWEEN BLACK MEN, WOMEN

In a report on the status of Blacks in post-secondary education, coordinated by the College Fund (formerly the United Negro College Fund), some striking results have been revealed. Most notably is the fact that Black women continue to surpass the number of Black men who attend college. While in 1976, Black women were 11 percent more likely than Black men to attend college, today they are nearly 25 percent more likely to do so. Additionally, they are earning college degrees at twice the rate of Black men. The report documents that since the 1970s the number of Black women earning undergraduate degrees has increased by 35 percent while the number of Black men increased by 20 percent. And, as the number of Black women earning master's degrees, for the same time period, has increased by five percent, Black men have dropped by 10 percent. The report, which relied on data available at the Department of Education and other studies, concluded that while today's Black students fair better than students of a generation ago, their numbers do not mirror the African-American share of the population or reflect parity with white students. While 21 percent of whites between the ages of 25 and 60 have a bachelor's degree only 14 percent of Blacks have earned the same. Researchers also found that Black students still drop out of college more frequently than whites. They also discovered that Black students relied more heavily on financial aid, and this may in part be explained by the fact that nearly one-third of Black college

LOCAL

Vice President Gore offers high praise for Congressman Donald Payne gala

Newark, NJ—vice president al gore gave high praise for New Jersey's 10th district congressman, Donald M. Payne, in a letter written to Payne on February 26, written in conjunction with the tribute and celebration honoring Congressman Payne on March 15, the vice president said. "You have made valuable contributions to the Congressional Black Caucus, the United States House of Representatives and our nation. You have played an integral part in establishing national literacy day and calling national attention to the AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis, and the impact of incineration on public health." Vice President Gore added, "I certainly you are most deserving of our recognition for your tremendous accomplishments." Vice President Gore's letter will be included in a souvenir journal which will be presented to Congressman Payne at the celebration.

Former Senator Bill Bradley and former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary have joined Congressman Charles Rangel, Harry Belafonte and David Dinkins as honorary co-chairs of a gala honoring Payne for his 40 years of community and public service.

The formal dinner dance is being held on Saturday, March 15, 1997 at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey. The contribution is \$150 a person.



Congressman Donald Payne

Congressman Payne was elected to the House of Representatives in 1988 and is the immediate past chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Prior to his election, he worked with young people during his career as a teacher and national president of the YMCA.

Congressman Payne has worked actively for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Proceeds from the tribute will benefit the fund to assist youth and noteworthy endeavors which Congressman Payne has established and to support programs for young people and to assist individuals working for worthy causes.

Coalition announces "Party without a permit" to challenge law

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—The Coalition Against the Party Permit Law held a press conference in the Rutgers University Student Center to announce plans to hold a "Party Without a Permit" April 16 on the steps of Rutgers' Brower Commons. This will be in response to a recent ordinance passed by the City Council which requires that organizations file for a permit before holding a gathering of fifty people or more if any money or gifts are solicited. Violators of the ordinance are threatened with steep fines and jail time. The Coalition maintains that the ordinance was imposed to control certain groups and organizations, and will be selectively enforced.

Musicians and poets have been asked to perform at the party, which is planned for most of the afternoon. According to a Coalition press release, donations will be accepted to fund the creation of a New Brunswick People's Legal Defense Fund for the purpose of providing legal assistance to those who need it in cases of police abuse or other situations.

The Coalition is comprised of several community groups such as, the New Jersey Freedom Organization (NJFO), The New Brunswick Coalition Against Police Brutality (NBCAP) and Black Women's Association for Black Unity (BWABU). Recently, the NJFO and NBCAP filed a lawsuit against the city against the ordinance.

Whitman applauded for additional school funds



Governor Whitman talks to parents, teachers, students, and reporters as she visited the Madison Ave. School in Newark. Mayor Sharpe James, Superintendent Beverly L. Hall, Donald Mann from Prudential, Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz, and Rev. Dizon from the Beulah Baptist Church look on.

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—Christie Whitman visited the Madison Ave. School Thursday, where local politicians, educators, parents, and clergy thanked her for providing an additional \$26 million into this year's school budget.

The Governor, along with Mayor Sharpe James, Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall, and Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz visited classrooms and spoke with children before and during a conference in the school library, where James, Hall, and others applauded her for the money in special state-operated district funds. The money will go to specific programs that assist in the reforming the education system in Newark. Also in attendance were the Rev. Reginald Jackson, the Rev. Gerald Dickson, both of the Black Ministers Council, State Senator and Newark Councilman Ronald Rice, and a group of parents and community leaders.

Adrienne Hollenback, a parent volunteer who spoke at the conference, is also happy about the additional money, and says it would be put to good use. She also says that there are things parents can do to help out, such as volunteering as she does in Madison. "If more parents volunteer in these schools and help these principals and teachers out, we will be just fine," she said.

"Not only is Christie Todd Whitman bringing good news, but she has been a role model, she's been a friend," Mayor James told a group of students gathered at the conference. "(She is) someone who cares about young people, someone who cares about our urban school district's, someone who cares about you." He also reflected on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to his old alma mater, South Side High School (now Malcolm X Shabazz) twenty-nine years ago this month, where he told kids to "learn, baby, learn, so you can earn, baby, earn."

"The recognition I received today shows that the residents of Newark recognize our commitment to helping restore faith in the school district," Governor Whitman said. "Dr. Hall

deserves credit for involving the community in the implementation of her reform plan and for making sure I am aware of the concerns of Newark residents."

Whitman also spoke directly to the children as she addressed the conference, explaining to them the importance of the additional funding. "What's happening here in Newark isn't necessarily easy to do, turn-around doesn't come overnight," Whitman said, "but all of you should understand how very important you are in the fact that everything that is happening, all the changes that have been made...are to give you the opportunity to have a meaningful learning experience that will give you the tools to learn, baby learn."

"I feel great, fantastic!" exclaimed Christine Carter-Betts, principal of Madison who received accolades in the conference for her work. "We need more, but at least this is something to start with. Our children can achieve what any other children can achieve given the resources, so this is a plus today."

Hall is also very optimistic about the future, saying the money will help fund teacher training and assistance. "They're working real hard," she said. "We have to really show them different approaches...how to get children engaged in learning...more hands-on learning. To blame them for not doing it is unfair because they were never trained to do that."

Although the \$26 million is welcome, even those who commended Whitman today still want to see an effort made for equal funding in the school system. Rev. Reginald Jackson, who is also an opponent of the charter school system was among those concerned. "I had a problem with the legislation the assembly passed last week, and I hope it will be overturned," he said, "but I think the \$26 million is a good move."

Adrienne Hollenback also asks for equal funding, saying the current situation undermines the students in poorer districts. "If we poor or not, everyone needs to be educated equally," she said. "Just because we're poor doesn't mean we should be less educated, and the rich shouldn't be less educated either."

Outrage

Continued from page 1

Giles, 34, now living in Somerville with his wife, Fresh from an Air Force tour in the Gulf, he has been acting for the past eight years, but most actively in the past three. He has appeared as an extra in a number of major motion pictures such as *Malcolm X* and *Clockers*, and in Six Flags commercial last summer. He says these recent events came out of nowhere but it is just fine with him. "I am definitely surprised at all this media attention, but I thank God for it," he said.

Being a Christian helps him put it all in a good perspective. When asked about Howard Stern's support, he simply says, "It says something for what God could do." In regards to the two death threats he has received, his feeling is also one of positivity. "Let's say I am performing and someone carries out their threat," he said. "I can't think of a better time to die, portraying Christ!"

to whatever truth they want to believe, the rest of us know the truth," he continued.

Bishop William Cahoon of the Garden State Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ, says the anger towards Giles is indicative of the racial climate in New Jersey, and what should be fought. "We're supposed to be dealing with Christian people," he said. "God does not see color. This is not a Christian spirit at all."

Rev. Msgr. William J. Linder, Pastor of the St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newark, and head of the New Community Foundation is equally upset, particularly about how this has distracted from the mission of the church and still is receiving. "It's pathetic," he said, referring to the outcry. "After 30 years in this work, I am not surprised. I just hope that there are no more surprises."

Rev. Msgr. Linder also said to put what the play's message in perspective. "We need to remember historically where all of this took place and that the mission of salvation is universal," he said.

Ironically, Giles did not receive this kind of attention when he played more unsavory characters like Herod last year in the same play, or the devil, which he played last weekend in the Plainfield High School production of the gospel musical "Going Back Home," something that has rings very sad for the sentiments expressed last week. Hope is in the response, counting the racism aimed at Giles. He, however, is taking it all in stride. "If they don't like me, I love them anyway," he said regarding his detractors, "and I thank them for the opportunity to represent Christ nationwide!"

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SPONSORS DAFFODIL DAYS

If you have Spring fever, here's your chance to Spring into Spring early this year. The American Cancer Society (ACS), Essex Unit, is sponsoring its sixth annual "Daffodil Festival," fundraising event from now through March 21, 1997, in the City of Newark. All proceeds will go to benefit cancer research, treatment and other American Cancer Society resources. According to the American Cancer Society, as of 1996, there were about 45,100 new cancer cases reported in the State of New Jersey.

One pot of mini-daffodils (4 flowers with replantable bulbs) sells for \$7 and a box of 18 pots for \$125. A bunch of 10 fresh cut flowers sells for \$5 and a half box of 25 bunches for \$125. A box of 50 bunches costs for \$250. The first "Gift of Hope" for \$9 is an anonymous gift which includes a bunch of daffodils in a special vase and will be delivered to a local Cancer patient in one of the Essex County Hospitals. All Daffodil Days orders will be distributed on March 17 through 22, 1997. For and information call (201-733-8004).

Green bill encourages construction of multiple dwellings

TRENTON—The Assembly by a vote of 58-9 approved a measure that Assemblyman Jerry Green sponsored to encourage the construction of new multiple dwellings by extending an existing rent control exemption.

Green's measure (A-2379/s-1619) would extend the current exemption from rent control ordinances for newly constructed multiple dwellings. Currently, multiple dwellings are exempt from rent control while the initial mortgage loan is being repaid. However, this exemption is due to expire in 1997, this exemption is now permanently extended the exemption.

"Several thousand urban rental units have been built or planned because of the state's decade-old rent control exemption," said Green. "One developer has told me that the exemption has been instrumental for building more than 3,500 units over the last decade. The measure, now heads to the Governor for consideration."

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Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
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Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

NEW BRUNSWICK—Free public seminar on bankruptcy law at the New Jersey Law Center. For more information, call 908-937-7516.

NEW YORK—Small, minority and women-owned business conference for contractors seeking opportunities under HUD programs throughout the New York Metropolitan area. Morris Hall Auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology. For more information, call 212-694-0006.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

SCOTCH PLAINS—Workshop, "How to Realize your Retirement Dreams", 7-15 pm at the Scotch Plains Library. For more information, call Renee Gosh or Steve Tebelle, 1-800-347-5018.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a free public seminar on navigating through the "Medicare-Medicaid Maze" at the New Jersey Law Center. For more information, call 908-937-7516.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

NEW BRUNSWICK—Luncheon, "Salute to Women Leaders", sponsored by the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners. For more information, call 908-536-2114.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

JERSEY CITY—NJ Transit is sponsoring a seminar to inform minority firms of contracts for building the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Line. It will be held in the Student Union Building of Jersey City State College. For more information, call 201-949-4100.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Regional Business & Industry Expo. For more information, call 908-843-6868.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Seminar, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support, Domestic Violence Rights" at the New Jersey State Bar Association. For more information, call 908-937-7516.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

PHILADELPHIA—Delaware Valley Minority Business Resource Council General Meeting. For more information, call 215-893-9977.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

FAIRFIELD—Seminar, "Leadership Development Course for Managers". For information, call 1-800-255-4141.

10 Entrepreneurial opportunities: What business will be hot in the next six months

By Pierre A. Clark

The dramatic economic restructuring of America and the world in the past 15 years has forever altered the way wealth is created in this country. For example, according to Fortune magazine, 43 percent of the companies that were on the Fortune 500 list in the 1980s had dropped off the list and were out of business in 1995. The development of new technologies—microchips, desktop computers and software, cellular communications technology—stimulated a wholesale transformation from a manufacturing-based to an information-driven economy. The result has been the creation of entire new industries and an explosive growth in small business formation: over 750,000 new businesses were started in 1995 alone. More of you than ever are starting your own small businesses. And most of you are wondering: Where will the high-profit enterprise opportunities emerge from in the next five years? And how can I create a business that taps those opportunities? Our research indicates that the following product/service sectors will grow high-profit businesses over the next six months to one year: (a) Technology-related opportunities: If you understand and can apply new technology tools computers and software—to solve problems and create jobs, you'll discover a broad market for a variety of small businesses from computer programming to interactive media development. (b) Personal services: In an era where time is the most precious commodity, the list of potentially profitable services which you can offer as a service business is endless—among them are maid services, personal organizer/shopper/diary service, house-

housekeeper, dog groomer, and carpet cleaner. (c) Small products manufacturing: Many people are building multimillion dollar businesses from products they manufacture in their homes. Arts and crafts, microbrewed beer, gift baskets, greeting cards and foodstuffs are just some of the products in high-demand by consumers demanding uniqueness and high-quality. (d) Outsourcing: Bottom-line-conscious large companies and government agencies are desperately seeking partners to handle expensive administrative/data management tasks—thus the explosive growth in outsourcing. One company in Chicago, for example, grew from a small consultancy to a 60-person consulting firm when it won a \$3 million contract to manage the computer operations for the Department of Energy. (e) Recycling: More of us are concerned about protecting our increasingly fragile environment from damaging pollutants and cleaning pol-

luted elements of our environment. Those concerns have created a multimillion-dollar market for environmentally correct/biodegradable/recyclable products and services. (f) Telecommunications: Four trends—the decade-long deregulation of the telecommunications industry, the distribution of high-speed telephone lines, the Internet's growing growth, and the proliferation of cellular telephones—are driving the creation of new telecommunications firms and businesses based on these services. (g) Training/education: The \$30 billion market for training services will only grow because: (1) Technology breakthroughs are occurring in months, not years. (2) The average worker will change jobs five to six times in his/her working lifetime, and each job will require retraining. (3) Most workers lack even basic technology skills. (h) Home entertainment: Consumers are demanding more, not fewer, home entertain-

ment choices: Videos, CD-ROMs, WebTV, multimedia games, big-screen high-definition TV and 500-channel cable. If you are creative and inventive, there are million-dollar payoffs in developing new home entertainment products. (i) Information research: Hundreds of thousands of information sources are now linked by and accessible through the Internet. Sorting through and interpreting that information for companies and individuals will be a highly profitable endeavor for a growing number of information services firms. (j) Travel services: By the year 2000, travel is predicted to be the world's #1 industry. Specialized tours, cruises, and excursions will be popular. Companies that can make travel arrangements and combine diverse forms of travel—by plane, bus, car and train will be highly profitable, as well as companies that market travel services over the Internet. These 10 business segments, we predict, will be guaranteed profit generators that will be among the fastest-growing business segments over the next five years. If your talents and interests lie in any of these areas, your fortune may be waiting.

Workforce Development Conference set for March 27

The New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP and the National Business League of New Jersey/Financial Consortium will sponsor "Workforce Development," a conference scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 1997. It is being held at the Richard Stockton College's Townsend Residential Life Center at Pomona New Jersey. The sponsorship this will be a landmark in exploring new elements of workforce development. It is unique because it will produce a substantial report outlining, seldom discussed, elements of needed cultural perspective within workforce development, the role of technology as an Affirmative Action vehicle and strategies for collective understanding and action. Governor Christie Whitman has been invited to serve as the luncheon speaker. The Conference Keynote's speaker will be Arthur Fletcher, the former Chairman of the US Civil Rights Commission.

For more on the conference, information, call 609-652-0532.

UCEDC signs three-year agreement with US Department of Defense



Union County Economic Development Corporation, Department of Defense and Board of Chosen Freeholders sign agreement.

The Union County Economic Development Corporation held a signing ceremony with the U.S. Department of Defense and Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to finalize a funding agreement for its Procurement Assistant Program, which runs through this month.

Under the agreements, the Department of Defense will provide matching funds totaling \$130,000 to the Union County Economic Development Corporation. The agreement includes a commitment of three years (one base

year and two option years). Based on the past success of the program with the Corporation, the Department of Defense chose to renew the agreement. It is the first time a commitment longer than one year will be in effect.

Sixty thousand dollars in matching funds will also be provided by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Union County Economic Development Corporation covers the rest of the costs associated with running the program.

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"A CALL TO CONSCIENCE"

FROM: Dorothy R. Leavell, President-National Newspaper Publishers Association

Black Americans can no longer tolerate a "double standard" treatment of Black African Nations by the United States Government. If Jewish Americans can stand up for Israel we can stand up for Africa. Now is the time to let President Clinton know that we African-Americans respectfully recommend responsible engagement with Nigeria and oppose isolation and economic sanctions.

Let us all sign the Petition For Fairness To Nigeria, we will see that they reach the White House during Black Press Week, March 19 - 22, 1997.

NATIONAL COALITION FOR FAIRNESS TO NIGERIA

-PETITION DRIVE-

The National Coalition for Fairness to Nigeria was formed in November 1995. The purpose of the organization is to encourage open and objective dialogue among those who write and implement America's foreign policy and to advocate fairness toward Nigeria.

Whereas Nigeria held local non party elections in March 1996, when 60% of the people voted.

Whereas Nigeria is holding local party elections in March 1997.

Whereas Nigeria is scheduled to elect State Governors in the Fall of 1997.

Whereas Nigeria is planning for a Presidential Election in 1998 to transfer power from military to civilian government.

Whereas The Black Press of America monitored the elections in March 1996 and March 1997 and will monitor the 1998 Presidential Election.

Whereas Nigeria has demonstrated its support of the United Nations Peacekeeping efforts in the Congo, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Bosnia, Angola, Somalia, Rwanda, and Liberia and paid all cost for its Liberian Peacekeeping operations of 7,000 Nigerian troops and

Whereas Nigeria has been a stabilizing influence in West Africa and provided leadership on the African continent by supporting Freedom Fighters in Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and reconciliation in Angola and

Whereas Nigeria has been a reliable and loyal supplier of petroleum to America and has 100 million population that would suffer hardships from the destabilizing effect of economic sanctions.

We, the undersigned do petition President Clinton to lift diplomatic sanctions and reject appeals to impose economic sanctions on Nigeria and to adopt and accept recommendations for a policy of responsible engagement and a FAIRNESS DOCTRINE to help Nigeria as we are helping Israel and the PLO resolve the crisis of the Middle East and promoting a peace process in Bosnia with the Dayton Agreement.

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POSITIVELY BLACK:

Trials and Tribulations Are A Part of Living

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

During the course of our lives, each one of us will encounter a myriad of circumstances and situations which will severely test our mettle. It is one thing for things to unravel before us, but it is another altogether to be forced to grapple with circumstances beyond our control. Often we ask "why me?" as if we are the only one on planet earth who is going through difficulty.

A wise teacher once said, "in this world you will have tribulation. . . ." He advised his listeners to be "of good courage." When we are facing tragedy or going through the first of life, it is often difficult to be of good courage if we think we are all alone or ill-equipped to handle the vicissitudes of life. There lies the key to dealing with life confidently and optimistically.

Knowing you are not alone and that you are fully equipped by the Creator to deal effectively with whatever comes your way. This is not to say everything will be pleasant, but you will be able to cope because you are not alone!

While it may appear that others rarely experience the pain and suffering you encounter, no human is immune to the storms of life. All of us will experience our share of disappointment, heartache, loss of loved ones, or the failure of plans or dreams to turn out the way we want. Each time you are faced with such a situation you have to make a crucial decision. You will have to decide how you will view and respond to it. Will you choose to see it as an overwhelming defeat, a problem that you are incapable of han-

dling? Or will you view it as a temporary condition? - a lesson along life's way, one that will not destroy you or cripple you? Will you look at the situation as a catalyst to develop your ingenuity and competence? Will you ask yourself "what lesson(s) can I learn from this experience? What can I discover about myself?"

The good news is that you are never alone in any situation. Divine Intelligence and Power are ever present in your midst, ready willing and able to come to your aid and assistance. To contact the divinity within simply turn your consciousness inward. Get quiet, still your mind, close out the outside world. Listen in the stillness for Divine Wisdom to speak to your deepest needs. The strength, resolve and courage you need to transcend whatever crisis is before you, are within you. The wisdom, guidance and intelligence you need to sustain you is closer than your skin. The resourcefulness you need to find a solution or make a way out of nowhere is within you!

The solutions you need may come to you in a dream or as a flash of insight, a hunch or an idea that seems to pop into your consciousness out of nowhere. The right person or persons may come into your life at just the "right" time to provide the needed services support or help. These things will not be coincidences, they will be the channels. Omnipotence uses to meet your needs, answer your prayers and help you solve your problems.

Keep an open and receptive mind. Expect things to work out for your highest good and for the good of all concerned. Give thanks, even in the midst of adversity for this is an opportunity for personal growth, expansion and maturity. Turn the situation com-

pletely over to the omnipotent and omniscient spirit that dwells within you. Keep in mind that faith is not passive. It requires confidence and courage. It takes courage to remain patient in the face of seeming disaster. It takes strong faith to remain confident when the outward signs point to defeat or humiliation. It takes a powerful will not to cave in, in the midst of agony, or suffering.

Master your inner resources, never give up on yourself. Be prepared to do whatever it takes to resolve the situation. Follow your hunches and flashes of intuition, they are guideposts along life's way. Life can be difficult, but there is a way. Be of good courage. The Divine I Am in the midst of you is mighty.

Long Branch church holds Black History service

by Avery Grand

LONG BRANCH—Rev. Elmer Ray Jackson, in African garb, was the guest preacher for the Black History Month service at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Long Branch. Rev. Jackson is the executive director of the Count Basie Learning Center in Red Bank. As the center's first director, he transformed a condemned tavern in a troubled neighborhood into a modern place for training and education, "to create an opportunity for our children and a place where their dreams can become reality." As a former Marine jet fighter pilot from 1971 to 1978, he was one of only four black aviators in the United States Marine Corps. Later he became a contractor for training Navy and Marine jet pilots.



Pictured above (l-r) are: member Paula Jackson, visitor Mary McGarry, member Annie Grant, Rev. Jackson's wife, Doris, Rev. Jackson, visitor Ruth Bogle, and caterer Jerome Turner. Committee members prepared some of their personal ethnic specialties, and Caterer Turner prepared a meal of baked ham, blackeyed peas and rice, collard greens and cornbread. During the service Danielle Drake and Danielle Poplar of the Long Branch High School Westwood Players presented a vignette from Alice Walker's "Everyday Use."

Black leaders leery of right-to-die movement

DETROIT (AP)—The right-to-die movement has relatively little support among black leaders, some of whom distrust the motives of the cause's supporters.

Much of the distrust is rooted in the perception that blacks already receive inferior medical care, experts and community leaders told the Detroit Free Press in a report published Wednesday.

"There is a lot of suspicion," said Annette Dula, a University of Colorado research associate who examines bioethical issues. "People know they don't get the health care they need while they're living. So what makes them think anything's going to be more sensitive when they're dying?"

The Rev. James Perkins, pastor of Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit, said there exists "a sort of a paradox . . . that if assisted suicide becomes legal, then lawmakers will somehow find a way to manipulate the law . . . to where African Americans are, to a greater extent than anybody else, receiving less medical care and are more often eliminated."

Blacks are more likely than whites to demand aggressive medical treatment, including life support, and are less likely to support the right to die, according to two surveys cited by the Free Press.

A 1993 University of Miami survey of 139 patients at clinics in that city, including 51 blacks, found 61 percent of whites and 36 percent of blacks supported doctor-assisted suicide. Fifty percent of whites and 20 percent of blacks said they would want such help for themselves.

A 1996 study of 206 cancer patients in North Carolina, including 92 blacks, found that 27 percent of blacks and 6 percent of whites would want to receive intensive care. Fifteen percent of blacks and 5 percent of whites would want to be kept alive on a respirator, that study showed.

Perhaps the best-known advocate of assisted suicide, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, has acknowledged attending at least 45 deaths since 1990. None were of blacks, that study showed.

"This is a very weird and different medical environment where everybody's bent out of shape over how much end-of-life care costs," she said. "And if we start making policy decisions about terminating care, if we start saying you can't have things, I'm afraid people in the black community

will become even more vulnerable and mistrustful."

Blacks might be more likely to embrace the belief that God, not doctors, or oneself, should choose the time to die. Seven former and current members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights are among those who filed legal briefs before the high court arguing that racial minorities, the poor and the disabled would be the first to feel pressure to die if assisted suicide were legal.

Mary Harris Evans of San Francisco is one of two black members of the board of the Death with Dignity Education Center, a non-profit California organization that favors legalizing physician-assisted suicide.

"There's a big fear of genocide in our community, whether it's right or wrong," she said. "People in the black community see death with dignity as just another way for them to be off."

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PLAINFIELD:
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SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:
Highway 71 and River Avenue
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Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.
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Newark, NJ
07102
201-622-3505
Rev. Petero A.N. Sabune

Taborce Baptist Church
Church Services:
Sun. 10 a.m.
1 p.m.
825 Riddgewood Ave., North Brunswick, NJ
08902
908-545-4063
Pastor Leo H. Graham

Abundant Life Family Worship Center
Church Services:
Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.
45 Hampton St., Melton, NJ
08840
908-545-3897
Rev. Ronald L. Owens

Innate Baptist Church
Church Services:
Sun. 11:00 a.m.
428 Central Ave., East Orange, NJ
201-678-7222
Rev. Moses Alexander Knott, Jr.

Faith Tabernacle Church
Church Services:
Weekdays -
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Sun. 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
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GOVERNOR TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO YOUTH COUNCIL

TRENTON—Governor Christine Todd Whitman is seeking enthusiastic and energetic young people to become new members of the New Jersey Governor's Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

Initiated in 1996, YAC serves as the statewide youth advisory body to Governor Whitman by providing her and the Legislature with the youth perspective on community service and community-based problem solving. YAC members identify important social issues, create innovative service initiatives and, in doing so, become leaders in New Jersey's service movement. YAC provides both a forum to share ideas and the necessary training to make a significant social impact.

YAC is comprised of 25 young New Jersey residents, ages 12 to 22, who have diverse backgrounds and community service experience. One third of the Council will turn over this year. To receive a YAC Application, contact Michael Gowdy, Youth Coordinator in the Governor's Office of Vulnerability, at 1-800-286-6528. The deadline for submission of an application is March 21, 1997.

School funding

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fourth floor conference room where spectators were watching the proceedings on closed-circuit television. Vernoio attempted to recover, saying "no one should 'slip things' that will solve all the education problems of the poorer districts. He also pointed out that has never been the feeling, and suggested that the right curriculum will have to be in place, monitored by the state education department. "It's going to require lots of things going on at once," he said. He also disagreed with Vernoio's figure concerning the party gap, saying it was "more like 10 percent."

Paul Trachtenberg, a 30-year veteran of the equal funding fight, and a professor at the Rutgers Law School, also defended equal funding. He pointed out that Robinson v. Cahill (the original suit) was filed in 1970. This court rendered a decision on unconstitutionality in 1973, and since that time over a half million children went through the school system with out the issue being resolved and therefore victims of a poor education system. "There are roughly 285,000 students currently in those districts, and I can only hope there will not be like the half million before them," Trachtenberg said. Standing outside the Richard J. Hughes Building were parents, teachers, and community activists made their displeasure known, chanting "We want parity!" and "Christie Whitman's gotta go!" Many of the protesters came from Newark, whose school system has been taken over by the state due to mismanagement.

"The state doesn't care about our children," said Patricia Bradford of the NAACP. "They passed a law to take away money from not just Newark, but from every child across this state, and we won't tolerate it!"

"We're tired of the double-talk, we're tired of the forked tongues," she also said. "We said we wanted education now, and if we don't get it, we know what to do in November, 1997!" Jeffrey Dykes of Newark gave Whitman a warning to that effect, reminding her of what happened to Congressman Dick Zimmer's unsuccessful bid against Bob Torricelli in last year's senate race. "We beat Zimmer because he was going around the state talking about how he was a 'Whitman Candidate,'" he said to a barrage of cheers.

After an hour, the rally became a march to the Statehouse where parents spoke on the school conditions. Houston Stevens, a parent at University High School, and member of the Progressive Labor Party, told the crowd there that the fight for parity is not based on race, but more on class and income. Moreover, he stressed that it is all part of a larger fight. "We

Public Defender claims on racism in death penalty verdicts

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—The Public Defender's Office is refusing a report filed by a retired appeals judge which found no evidence of race bias in the death penalty verdicts.

The office on Friday filed new legal briefs reasserting its claim that black murder defendants are indeed at greater risk than whites of getting the death penalty.

The brief also presents statistics indicating that killers whose victims are white are at greater risk of the death penalty than those whose victims are black, according to Public Defender Claudia Van Wyk.

The competing views will be hashed out in Supreme Court arguments March 18 on the death sentence for black convict Donald Loftin for the 1992 murder of a white gas station attendant in Lawrenceville.

Van Wyk said she is seeking to have Loftin's death sentence overturned on grounds that the system has built-in racial bias that puts blacks at greater risk of the death penalty than non-blacks. If the Supreme Court agrees, it could lead to dismissal of death sentences against other inmates on death row.

If the court acknowledges the race bias problem to its fullest extent, the case could lead to a finding that New Jersey's capital punishment system is unconstitutional — something Van Wyk said the Public Defender's Office is not seeking right now.

The Supreme Court under the late Chief Justice Robert Wilentz imposed many modifications on death penalty prosecutions after the law was reinstated in 1982, prompting appellate courts to reverse scores of death sentences, but the basic law was never struck down.

Wilentz died in July and was replaced on the bench by Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, who as attorney general supported the death penalty law.

Retired Superior Court appeals judge Richard Cohen issued a report

on Jan. 28 concluding the statistics on prosecutions and convictions for death-penalty crimes with a death verdict showed no firm trend of race bias.

But Cohen also said his conclusion doesn't prove an absence of race bias. He said the overall statistics were simply inconclusive, perhaps because of other aspects of the capital trial system, such as the weight given certain aggravating factors, are difficult to measure.

Cohen's analysis was ordered by the court to evaluate statistics the

Public Defender's Office had presented in a prior death penalty case of convict Joseph Harris, who died two days before Supreme Court arguments were scheduled, rendering them moot.

Van Wyk disagreed with Cohen on the weighing of aggravating factors. The public defender's study found race when measured with the other factors outweighed all of them.

"Judgment calls have to be made in designing these studies. We think our judgments were sound," Van Wyk

said. "Our first question is whether that system that produced the verdict in the past did so unequally, and we think it did."

Cohen used a survey of judges to dispute the public defender's interpretation. The Public Defender's Office said the survey was itself flawed and not a valid rebuttal of its findings.

Cohen's report showed 50 convicted killers have been sentenced to death, yet only 11 are on death row now, five whites and six blacks.

4.4 Mil Americans threatened with homelessness

By Darryl Lamont Jenkins

After testifying before a House subcommittee on what he termed as a housing crisis, the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) held a conference call to discuss plans to reform and preserve the Section 8 program, which he says not doing would threaten millions of Americans on government assistance with homelessness.

According to Secretary Andrew Cuomo, as of fiscal year 1998, the first Section 8 contracts that were drafted three years ago will expire, and they are not renewed it could result in 4.4 million Americans living in government-subsidized homes without places to live, that number rising to 6 million by the year 2002. Cuomo testified before the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, chaired by Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT), and recommended that Congress increase HUD's budget by 30% to cover the contract renewal costs. "The cost of renewal is about \$10 billion," Cuomo said. "That's half of HUD's budget for this year. I would mean cutting all of our programs by a third to fund the renewals out of our existing budget, and that will hurt a lot of people who depend on them to survive."

President Clinton's budget for FY 1998 would increase funding for HUD by the necessary 30%. It would also make welfare reform work by creating new jobs and improve HUD man-

agement.

Secretary Cuomo says it is too early to tell what Congress' response will be, but he feels that it is an uphill battle in a time when they are streamlining budgets. It is also a concern that not all past contractors would not want to renew their contracts. "You may have some owners who feel they can use their property for other uses and will rather go private, to stop that." There is nothing to stop that.

Cuomo is making plans to prevent this from recurring in the future. Among the things he wants to do is rewrite the housing policy, draft shorter contracts, and push for less density and less concentration of poor people in one place. Consistent with the welfare plan, Cuomo suggests 50,000 new vouchers to be used exclusively with the welfare to work program, helping recipients to find homes in the areas they work, which trends say will be away from the cities and into the suburbs.

Cuomo stresses that this is something everyone needs to be concerned about. "This is not a big city problem, not a northeast problem, this is a national problem," he said.

Disney sued for discriminating against black workers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. was sued in federal court by black hotel workers who claim they are discriminated against in hiring and promotions at Disney-owned hotels in Florida.

The class action filed Friday cites an internal report on minority hiring

Mayors tournament set for end of March

Sharpe James announced that the "Mayor's Basketball Tournament" will take place from March 31 through April 4 at John F. Kennedy Recreation Center, 211 West Kinsey Street (entrance on Howard Street). Only the first 10 teams to apply will be selected. The event is open to Newark residents only. There will be two divisions, male and female, and three age categories: 9 through 14, 15 through 17, and 18 and over. There is no fee required in the 9 through 14 and 15 through 17 categories. However, there is an \$80 registration fee for those in the 18 and over category. The fee is refundable unless a team forfeits a game. "This basketball

hall tournament is an excellent opportunity for Newark citizens to demonstrate their athletic skills and have fun at the same time," James said. "The level of competitiveness at the tournament is outstanding. I urge the Newark community to support this tremendous yearly event." Harold Wright and Miriam Santiago, DORCA special events coordinators, said all teams must have uniforms that are numbered on the front and back. The registration deadline for the Mayor's Basketball Tournament is March 24. Entry forms are available in the DORCA office (94 William Street, 2nd floor). For information, call 733-3749.

Black Press

continued from page 1

tested vigorously against this inequality and presented a petition to the State Legislature. The White publication the New York Sun proclaimed its motto "It shines for all." However, the Sun was one of the staunchest advocates against giving Black men the right to vote. There was no journalistic outlet for Black citizens. Will A. Hodges overcame this obstacle by founding the Ram's Horn with his friend Thomas Van Rensselaer, in 1847. Mr. Hodges later said:

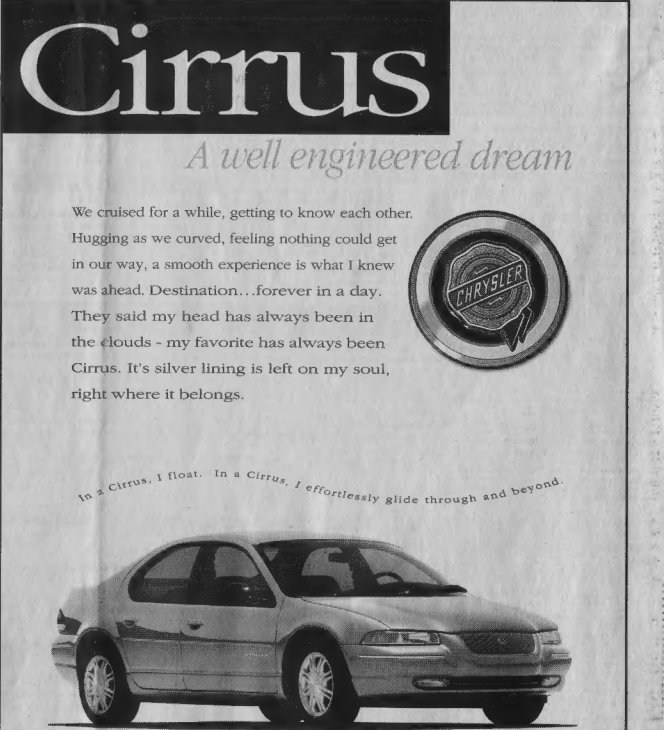
"I had not one dollar of my own for the paper; but as whitewashing was a good business in New York, I went to work at it, and in two months I had nearly all the money that was necessary to get out the first number, and I can truly say that I furnished every dollar that started the Ram's Horn, and wrote the first article that was published in its columns." Willis A. Hodges clearly demonstrated the spirit of perseverance and dedication to the principle of self-determination that characterized the African-American journalist.

that found the company hired fewer blacks and other minorities for managerial and supervisory positions than the number of qualified and available minority workers.

However, the number of minority workers in "menial" jobs, including laundry assistants and housekeep-

ers, is above average, the report found. "We deny that categorically," said Tom Deegan, vice president of corporate communications for Disney.

Deegan refused to comment further on the case.



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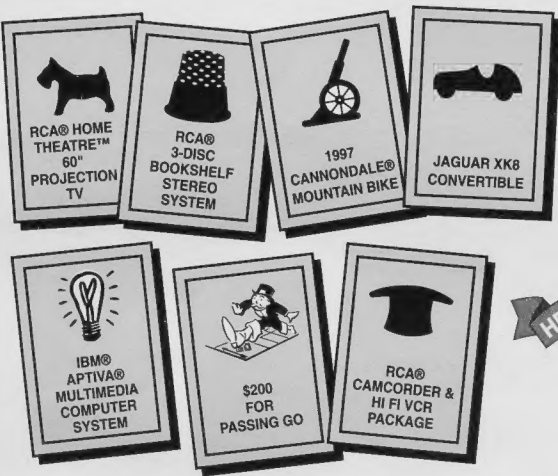
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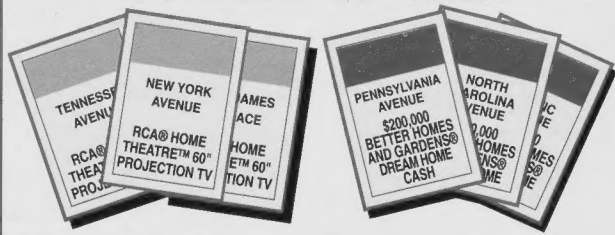


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